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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	2
	Russian Federation	2

92-48545 3489f (E) 091092 111092

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session the General Assembly adopted decision 46/414 of 6 December 1991, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In this decision the General Assembly, inter alia, invited Member States to provide their views on the implementation of the Declaration, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 13 July 1992 to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit their views in accordance with the above-mentioned decision.

3. As at 7 October 1992, a reply had been received from the Russian Federation. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: Russian]

[23 September 1992]

1. The Russian Federation considers the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security an important document, which promoted awareness of the tasks facing the world community in achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations at the current stage. The future activities of the Organization relating to international security problems must reflect the profound changes that have taken place in the world arena and must seek to strengthen the consensus on the ways to establish a new democratic world order.

2. Russia firmly intends to support efforts to strengthen the Organization as an instrument for building a democratic world on the basis of the principles of the primacy of legality, human rights and political and economic freedom. In the new world order that is being created, the United Nations, in our view, is faced with the task of establishing a reliable global system of collective security made up of three basic components:

(a) Promoting the disarmament processes; preventing and settling conflicts; and maintaining and establishing peace, including the taking of coercive measures against an aggressor;

(b) Affirmation of the highest humanitarian principles;

(c) Ensuring the stable economic and social development of all States, and broad cooperation in solving major transnational problems (ecological problems, dangerous diseases, natural disasters, international crime, etc.).

3. The possibilities for enhancing the role of the United Nations and making thorough use of the potential laid down in its Charter are very great today. On the one hand, an increasing number of States, overcoming the cold war and confrontation syndrome, are demonstrating a readiness for practical cooperation through the United Nations system; and, on the other hand, multilateral institutions are giving the world community the chance to pass through the transitional period with minimal outlays.

4. The process of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, is of decisive importance for strengthening military and political stability.

5. The framework agreement on further significant reductions in strategic offensive weapons and the concept of global defence against ballistic missiles put forward by the Russian Federation and the United States of America were one of the most important achievements of the recent Russian-American summit meeting at Washington.

6. In accordance with its foreordained mission, the United Nations must actively promote the continuity and globalization of the process of real disarmament that has begun, the joining of the efforts of all States towards the establishment of a reliable non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction, the cessation of nuclear tests and the strengthening of confidence-building measures.

7. The Russian Federation believes that building stable structures for global security is inseparably linked to the progressive development of the common European process and the implementation of the principles proclaimed in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. Russia is prepared to participate actively in the establishment of a collective common European system of security.

8. The reality of the current stage of world development is such that the reduced global threat of war does not provide sufficient safeguards against outbursts of regional tensions and local wars. In today's world, where time and space have been compressed to a maximum, there is a need to rethink the very concept of "international peace and security".

9. A high level of cooperation among the members of the Security Council is necessary to enable the United Nations not only to react effectively to challenges that arise but also to act "in anticipation". There is a need to improve further the anti-crisis machinery of the Organization: from greater utilization of the means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes to expanding the sphere for using United Nations peace-keeping operations and decisive coercive actions to establish international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter.

10. Russia, for its part, is participating actively and practically in United Nations peace-keeping operations and is taking part in the provision of supplies and equipment.

11. Recent experience demonstrates the importance of clearly coordinating and combining the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations and regional organizations. In this way, it would be possible to make the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter truly meaningful. The adoption by the General Assembly of the draft declaration on the improvement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which was submitted by Russia to the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, would help in carrying out this task.

12. Welcoming the Organization's success in peacemaking, Russia notes the increasingly urgent need to strengthen substantially the preventive component of United Nations activities. Supporting the proposals made in this regard in the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace", we consider that the implementation of those proposals will make it possible to forestall the occurrence of new crises and make the trend towards rejection of violence as a means for settling disputes and differences universal and steadfast.

13. Protecting human rights, freedom and the interests of individuals as a basis of the contemporary civilized world order is a major area for efforts to be made by the United Nations. The world community cannot ignore blatant and mass violations of human rights and discrimination against national minorities. The principle of non-interference cannot confer immunity here either. It would be useful to elaborate within the United Nations a special document that would define international legal responsibility in the field of human rights and include measures for exerting influence on States that violate such rights.

14. There is an inseparable link between the secure world of the future and the building of a new structure for international economic relations based on the principles of justice and equality, the conversion of military production, the broadening of multilateral cooperation with regard to the problems of foreign debt, and measures to deal with hunger, poverty and natural disasters.

15. Carrying out a radical economic reform and striving to become an integral part of a world economy, we are aware of the impact of the processes occurring in Russia on the global economic situation and we view our obligations to the world community with the utmost seriousness. The economic activities of the United Nations must take into account the interests of all its Members on the basis of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and the International Development Strategy.

16. The universal nature of the task of protecting the environment also requires a coordinated international approach. Russia considers that the results of the second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are positive. The documents adopted at the Conference constitute a good moral

and legal basis for enhancing cooperation in the field of ecology and developing preventive measures to avert natural catastrophes and technological disasters and effectively deal with their consequences.

17. The Russian Federation is open to concrete constructive dialogue with all States and the search for more rational approaches to ensuring general security with the central coordinating role of the United Nations.